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T2315-906256

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Frank J. BOVA et al.

Serial No.: 09/430,034

Filed: October 29, 1999

For: MASK SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR STEREOTACTIC RADIOTHERAPY
AND IMAGE GUIDED PROCEDURES

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Group Art Unit: 3737

Examiner: E. Mantis Mercader

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RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the official letter dated October 12, 2001, please reconsider the above-captioned application in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 9, 15-16, 19 and 23 under 35 USC 102(b) over Kormos as being completely anticipated is respectfully traversed.

Before discussing the rejection applicants believe it would be helpful to briefly review the claimed invention. The present invention relates to a device, system and method for stereotactic medical procedures. More specifically, it provides for accurate positioning (fixation) of a patient or part of a patient for carrying out medical procedures, singly or multiple times. Various medical procedures involve repeated treatments at different times. For example, application of radiation is sometimes used for treating cancer or other conditions. Although a single application of radiation may sometimes be used, under many circumstances there are sound medical reasons to use repeated applications of radiation at different times. In addition, there are other medical procedures where precise location of